CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system for transferring data from a plurality of host data links to at least one local data link, the method comprising the steps of:

initializing a data bridge, wherein the data bridge is functionally connected on a first end to the plurality of host data links and on a second end to the at least one local data link;

determining if a first data link within the plurality of host data links and a second data link within the at least one local data link initiate a login parameter; and

automatically transferring the data from a source data link within the first plurality of data links to a target data link within the at least one local data link based on the login parameter.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data transferred from the source link is stored in a memory buffer device.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the data bridge is a data link concentrator.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein initializing the data bridge includes resetting the data bridge.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein if the data bridge is reset, the plurality of host data links functionally connected to the data bridge and the at least one local data link functionally connected to the data bridge are forced offline by the data bridge.

6. The method of claim 4, further comprising:

monitoring a signal from the first data link within the plurality of host data links and a signal from the second data link within the at least one local data link functionally connected to the data bridge;

determining whether an initiating sequence signal is received by the first data link and the second data link; and

establishing a data bridge active state if the initiating sequence signal is received by the first data link and the second data link.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

terminating data transfer from the source data link within the plurality of host data links to the target data link within the at least one local data link if the data bridge is in an offline state.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

monitoring the plurality of host data links and the at least one local data link functionally connected to the data bridge; and

terminating data transfer from the source data link to the target data link if the plurality of host data links or the at least one local data link does not remain in an active state.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein if the plurality of host data links and the at least one local data link complete an offline state protocol, the data bridge is reset.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the login parameter includes a fibre channel fabric login parameter and a fibre channel port login parameter.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the fibre channel login parameter includes buffer credits.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the fibre channel port parameter includes a port identification.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

automatically transferring the data from a source data link within the plurality of host data links to a buffer device if the data bridge is in a lockout mode.

14. An apparatus for transferring data from a plurality of host data links to at least one local data link, comprising:

and array of data links; and

a data bridge coupled on a first end to the plurality of host data links and on a second end to the at least one local data link, wherein the data bridge is initialized, the data bridge determines if a first data link within the plurality of host data links and a second data link within the at least one local data link initiate a login parameter, and the data bridge automatically transfers the data from a source data link within the plurality of host data links to a target data link within the at least one local data link based on the login parameter.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the data transferred from the source link is stored in a memory buffer device.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the data bridge is a data link concentrator.

17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein initializing the data bridge includes resetting the data bridge.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein if the data bridge is reset, the plurality of host data links functionally connected to the data bridge and the at lest

one local data link functionally connected to the data bridge are forced offline by the data bridge.

19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein if the data bridge monitors a signal from the first data link and a signal from the second data link functionally connected to the data bridge, the data bridge determines whether an initiating sequence signal is received by the first data link and the second data link, a data bridge active state is established if the initiating sequence signal is received by the first data link and the second data link.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the data bridge terminates data transfer from the source data link to the target data link if the data bridge is in an offline state.

21. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the data bridge monitors the plurality of host data links and the at least one local data link functionally connected to the data bridge and the data bridge terminates data transfer from the source data link to the target data link if the plurality of host data links or the at least one local data link does not remain in an active state.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein if the plurality of host data links and the at least one local data link complete an offline state protocol, the data bridge is reset.

23. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the login parameter includes a fibre channel fabric login parameter and a fibre channel port login parameter.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the fibre channel login parameter includes buffer credits.

25. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the fibre channel port parameter includes a port identification.

26. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the data bridge automatically transfers the data from a source data link to a buffer device if the data bridge is in a lockout mode.